

REMARKS

Applicants and Applicants' attorney express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent interview held on October 3, 2003. As indicated above, claims 6-11 and 23-27 have been canceled without prejudice, no claims have been amended, and new claims 94-104 have been submitted. Accordingly, claims 58-104 are pending, of which four are independent claims: method claim 58, with corresponding computer program product claim 73, and new method claim 94, with corresponding computer program product claim 99.

The Office Action rejected independent method claim 58 and corresponding independent computer program product claim 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by International Application WO 00/13416 to Deweese ("*Deweese*"). As noted during the Interview, *Deweese* fails to qualify as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and therefore the rejection of independent claims 58 and 73, along with the rejection of their corresponding dependent claims, is improper and should be withdrawn.¹ Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 58-93 are in condition for prompt allowance.

Applicants have also submitted new claims 94-104 to improve claim scope for the remaining independent claims in the application, as discussed and authorized in the interview.

The Examiners noted in the Interview Summary that the claims appear to be allowable, subject to further search. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance.

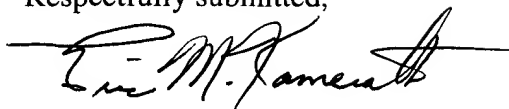
As indicate above, Applicants have submitted replacement drawing sheets for all drawings since the original drawing sheets submitted with the application were rejected for having copy machine marks. No changes have been made by the replacement drawings.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

¹See, e.g., the final flowchart from MPEP § 706.02(f)(1) for WIPO publication of International Applications ("IAs"). Because the IA was not filed on or after November 29, 2000 (its filing date is 26 August 1999), there is no proper § 102(e) date. As noted in the Interview Summary, the Examiners agreed that WO 00/13416 is not valid prior art under § 102(e).

Dated this 20th day of October, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Kamerath", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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